



KEY FIGURES

Bulletin of economic trends in Europe and summaries 10/98

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Foreword

The annual inflation rate for the Member States participating in Stage III of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) remained stable at 1.4% in July 1998. EU15 annual inflation rate decreased to 1.5% in July.

EU15 seasonally-adjusted unemployment stayed at 10.1% in July. The EUR-11 rate was 11.1%, down from 11.2% in June and compared to 11.7% in July 1997.

In January-April 1998, the EU's external trade balance worsened by ECU 6.6 billion to a deficit of ECU 0.4 billion. Extra-EU flows grew steadily with growth rates over 1997 of 9% for exports and 12% for imports. The EU remained the world's leading exporter, and was the second largest importer behind the USA.

EMU currencies showed little reaction to volatility on global financial markets in August. The ERM remained very steady, and the movement of ERM currencies against the US dollar and Japanese yen was limited. The USD nevertheless weakened significantly at end August to rate was 1.770 to the DEM.

EU government bond yields continued to fall in July. The aggregate yield declined for the EU15 to 5.04%, and for the EUR-11 to 4.82%. The degree of convergence in yields was almost unchanged compared with June.

Growth in M1 money supply accelerated in April to an estimated 8.8% for EU15, and 8.9% for the EUR-11. The rate probably slowed, however, in May. M3 growth in April was an estimated 5.3% for the EU15 and 3.8% for the EUR-11.

Foreign official reserves of EU15 and EUR-11 fell in April, from the record levels reached in March, to ECU 370.5 billion and 299.5 billion respectively. Data available for May suggest a further small decline in reserves.

The "Dossier of the month" of this edition is devoted to *GDP of the applicant countries*, the *Focus on facts of life in 46 European countries* and *Environment*.

European economy at a glance



	Dates	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EUR-11	EU 15
GDP, seasonally adjusted volume trends, T/T-1 %	II/98	:	-0.3	1.2	:	0.9	0.5	:	-0.1	:	1.1	:	:	0.6	-0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6
GFCF, seasonally adjusted volume trends, T/T-1 %	II/98	:	6.9	3.8	:	2.8	1.7	:	1.3	:	1.9	:	:	-7.5	5.4	3.8	2.1	2.5
Private final national consumption volume trends, T/T-1 %	II/98	:	-0.9	0.8	:	1.1	0.7	:	0.5	:	0.9	:	:	0.4	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.7
Production index 1995=100 total, seasonally adjusted (1)	06/98	111.1	99.4	:	:	111.8	109.6	:	101.4	108.4	105.4	:	:	123.3	:	102.4	:	:
Consumer price index T/T-12 %	07/98	1.2	1.4	0.9	4.8	2.3	0.8	2.5	2.1	1.2	1.8p	0.8p	2.8	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.4p	1.5p
Conversion rate 1 ECU=... monthly average	08/98	40.6	7.50	1.97	331.6	167.2	6.60	0.78	1944	40.6	2.22	13.86	201.6	5.99	8.96	0.67	:	:
Exchange rate 1 USD=... monthly average	08/98	36.9	6.81	1.79	301.1	151.8	6.00	0.71	1764	36.9	2.02	12.58	183.1	5.44	8.13	0.61	:	:
Money supply, M1 T/T-12 %	05/98	3.7	:	5.9	7.9	14.4	10.6	31.5	12.7	:	12.3	5.8	15.6	4.7	:	6.0(°)	8.9	8.8
Yield on public sector long-term bonds %	07/98	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.9	4.8	5.0
Unemployment rate seasonally adjusted %	8/98	8.8	4.6	9.6	:	18.6	11.8	9.1	:	2.3	3.9	4.5	6.2	12.1	8.6	:	11.1	10.1
Extra-EU trade balance Billion ECU	01-04/98	-1.5(°)	0.3	11.9	-1.2	-2.7	4.5	0.9	4.4	-1.5(°)	-12.4	0.9	-2.4	2.0	4.2	-10.5	5.6	-1.6
Intra-EU trade balance Billion ECU	01-04/98	5.6(°)	0.2	9.5	-3.4	-2.1	0.1	4.2	0.1	5.6(°)	16.5	-2.8	-1.8	1.2	1.0	-1.9	:	:

Data in italics are not necessarily for the indicated period but are the latest available (usually the previous month or quarter)

(°) : Excluding construction; (°) : BLEU; (°) : For the UK, MO is a narrow measure;

p = provisional data.

EMU annual inflation stable at 1.4% in July

The annual inflation rate¹ for the Member States participating in Stage III of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) remained stable at 1.4% in July 1998. A year earlier the rate was also 1.4%.

EU15 annual inflation rate² decreased to 1.5% in July. A year earlier the rate was 1.6%. Highest rates were reported for Greece (4.8%), Portugal (2.8%) and Ireland (2.5%). The lowest rates were in France and Austria (both 0.8%) and Germany (0.9%).

Compared with a month earlier, inflation increased in three EU Member States and decreased in eight. Compared with a year earlier, the largest relative increases in the rates were in Portugal (1.4% to 2.8%) and in Ireland (1.5% to 2.5%), while the largest relative decreases were in Germany (1.5% to 0.9%) and in Belgium (1.9% to 1.2%). The EEA annual rate³ of inflation decreased to 1.5% in July.

Annual % inflation for EU Member States - in ascending order

July 98/July 97			
EMU (MUICP)*	1.4p	Sweden*	1.3
EU15 (EICP)	1.5p	Denmark*	1.4
		United Kingdom*	1.5
France	0.8	Netherlands	1.8p
Austria	0.8p	Italy	2.1
Germany	0.9	Spain	2.3
Finland	1.1	Ireland	2.5
Belgium	1.2	Portugal	2.8
Luxembourg	1.2	Greece*	4.8

* Member States outside Stage III of Economic and Monetary Union are not covered by the MUICP.

p = provisional

1 As measured by the Monetary Union Index of Consumer prices (MUICP), calculated as a weighted average of the Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICPs) for participants in Stage III of EMU. The annual rate of inflation is defined as the percentage change resulting from the index number for a particular month divided by the index number for the same month in the previous year.

2 As measured by the European Index of Consumer Prices (EICP), calculated as a weighted average of HICPs for EU Member States.

3 As measured by the European Economic Area Index of Consumer Prices (EEAICP), calculated as a weighted average of HICPs for EU Member States plus Norway and Iceland.

EU15 jobless rate stays at 10.1% in July 1998

EU15 seasonally-adjusted unemployment stayed at 10.1% in July, same as June. This compares to 10.7% in July last year.

The EUR-11 rate was 11.1%, down from 11.2% in June and compared to 11.7% in July 1997.

Lowest unemployment was in Luxembourg (2.3%). Next came the Netherlands (3.9% - June), followed by Austria (4.5%) and

Denmark (4.6%). Spain's 18.6% was still by far the EU's highest rate, although 0.2 percentage points down on June and 2.4 points below the July 1997 level.

Within categories the range was from 7.3% (EU15 men aged 25 and over) to 24.7% (EUR-11 women under 25).

16.9 million men and women were unemployed in EU15 in July.

In January-April 1998 slight deficit of external trade balance

EU stays the world's leading exporter

In January-April 1998, the EU's¹ external trade balance worsened by ECU 6.6 billion to a deficit of ECU 0.4 billion; in the same period of 1997 there was a surplus of ECU 6.2 billion. Extra-EU flows grew steadily with growth rates over 1997 of 9% for exports and 12% for imports. The EU remained the world's leading exporter, and was the second largest importer behind the USA.

The EU had its largest trade surpluses with Poland (ECU 3.8 billion), Hong Kong (ECU 3.0 billion) and Turkey (ECU 2.8 billion). The largest deficits

were recorded in trade with Japan (ECU 11.2 billion) and China (ECU 8.2 billion).

Germany had the largest extra-EU surplus (ECU 11.9 billion) followed by France (ECU 4.5 billion), Italy (ECU 4.4 billion) and Sweden (ECU 4.2 billion), while the Netherlands and the United Kingdom had the highest external deficits (ECU 12.4 and 10.5 billion respectively). The Netherlands' deficit has to be interpreted in conjunction with its intra-EU surplus and its transit role in EU trade.

Stronger growth in intra-EU trade

In January-April 1998 intra-EU trade had a total value for dispatches (i.e. exports, which are the more reliable measure of intra-EU trade) of ECU 416.8 billion, an increase of 11% over the same period of 1997. This means that, after several years of weaker growth, intra-EU trade is now growing at the same rate as extra-EU trade.

The Netherlands had the largest intra-EU surplus, at ECU 16.5 billion in January-April 1998. However this surplus has to be interpreted in conjunc-

tion with the extra-EU deficit and its transit role in EU trade.

Germany had the second largest intra-EU trade surplus (ECU 25.9 billion), with Belgium/Luxembourg (ECU 5.6 billion) and Ireland (ECU 4.2 billion) also reporting significant surpluses.

Deficits were recorded by Greece (ECU 3.4 billion), Austria (ECU 2.8 billion), Spain (ECU 2.1 billion), the United Kingdom (ECU 1.9 billion) and Portugal (ECU 1.8 billion). The other Member States all had small surpluses.

¹ The European Union's figures have been sent to Eurostat by the Member States and are subject to frequent revisions.

EMU currencies show little reaction to financial market volatility in August

Interest rates remained steady

EMU currencies were relatively sheltered from heightened instability on global financial markets in August. The ERM remained very steady, and the movement of ERM currencies against the US dollar and Japanese yen was limited. Nevertheless, the dollar weakened significantly at the end of the month, falling from 1.809 to the DEM on 27th, to 1.770 on 31st (a trend which continued in early September). Meanwhile, the downward trend in the Japanese yen continued in early August, reaching its lowest point for several years against the USD (JPY 147.2) and DEM (JPY 82.5), before recovering to JPY 142.0 and 80.3 respectively by end month.

Within the EU, official interest rates were generally unchanged throughout August. However, the Bank of Greece lowered its Lombard rate from 19% to 16%, with effect from 5 August, while leaving other rates unchanged. The spread between the weakest and strongest currencies in the ERM narrowed during August from 7.98% to 4.84%, as the Greek drachma depreciated from GRD 166.2 to GRD 172.1 against the DEM. Excluding the GRD, the spread among ERM currencies was 1.23% at the end of August, the same

as at end July.

The pound sterling depreciated against ERM currencies in July and early August, before recovering. Against the DEM, its value during the first eight months of 1998 varied between DEM 3.108 and DEM 2.874, with an average of 2.97. At the end of August it stood at DEM 2.949. The Swedish krona also depreciated against the DEM in July and August, reaching a lowpoint of SEK 4.653 in late August, its weakest level since November 1996.

The Norwegian krone came under downward pressure during August. Despite the central bank raising interest rates on three occasions, the currency fell from 4.243 to the DEM at the end of July to 4.463 at the end of August, representing a depreciation of 8.0% since the beginning of 1998. Meanwhile, the overnight lending rate was increased seven times during 1998, from 5.5% to 10%. Another currency which weakened significantly in August was the Polish zloty: it fell to 2.113 to the DEM at the end of August, a depreciation since the start of the year of 7.1%.

Note:

Exchange rates are as supplied to the European Commission by central banks on a daily basis.

ERM = exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, comprising all of EU apart from the UK and Sweden.

Basis point = 1/100th of a percentage point in interest rates.

Global decline in bond yields in July

EU yields fall to new record lows

Government bond markets continued to perform strongly in July, causing yields to fall in the EU, USA and Japan. In the EU, yields continued to reach new record lows (on the basis of monthly data extending back to 1980) in all Member States apart from the UK, whose yield edged higher to 5.92%. The lowest yielding bond remained that of Germany (4.68%) and the highest that of Greece (7.68%). The composite yield for EU15 and EUR-11 fell, respectively, by 8 basis points to 5.04%, and 9 basis points to 4.82%. The degree of yield

convergence among Member States was almost unchanged in July compared with June, at around 30 basis points for EUR-11, and 300 basis points for EU15.

Compared with the EU, the US government bond yield has shown relatively little movement during 1998.

Nevertheless, it fell below 5.5% in July for the first time since October 1993.

Meanwhile, the Japanese yield fell 8 basis points to 1.24%, though remaining just above its historically low level of May.

Note:

The above-mentioned yields relate to government bonds of around 10 years to maturity. Data are monthly average.

EUR-11 (the countries participating in the final phase of EMU from 1 January 1999): Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

EUR-11 and EU15 aggregates are calculated on the basis of GDP weights. Basis point = 1/100th of a percentage point in interest rates.

Faster trend in narrow money growth

Broad money growth remains steady in early 1998

The annual rate of growth of M1 (narrow) money supply increased during the first four months of 1998. For EU15 (EUR-11), the rate moved up from 4.9% (4.8%) at the end of 1997, to 8.8% (8.9%) in April. Contributing to the upward trend were Germany, France, and Italy. However, data available for May suggest that the M1 growth rate for EU15 and EUR-11 probably slowed a little. Notably, M1 growth in Germany decelerated to 5.9% in May, from 6.8% in April.

The trend in M3 (broad) money growth

was fairly steady during the early months of 1998. In the year to April, it increased by an estimated 5.3% in EU15 and 3.8% in EUR-11. Data available for May show that the rate of growth remained relatively fast in Ireland, although slowing to 19.1% from 22.1% at the end of 1997. There was also a marked slowdown in M3 growth in Greece (from 9.5% at end 1997 to 2.8% in May) and Finland (from 8.8% to 5.0%). Meanwhile, M3 growth accelerated in France over the same period, from 1.9% to 4.5%.

Note:

Generally,

M1 = notes and coin in circulation + bank sight deposits;

M2 = M1 + savings deposits + other short-term claims on banks;

M3 = M2 + certain placements in a less liquid or longer-term form.

For the UK, M0 is a narrow measure and M4 a broad measure.

For Spain, ALP is a broad measure, as is L- for Portugal.

EU15 and EUR-11 series are Eurostat estimates.

EU15 and EUR-11 reserves dropped in April and May

Varying evolution in the Member States

Foreign official reserves of EU15 and EUR-11 fell in April 1998 from the record high levels reached in March. The EU15 total declined by ECU 4.4 billion to 370.5 billion, and the EUR-11 total by ECU 1.9 billion to 299.5 billion. The increase in reserves in March and subsequent reversal in April partly reflected movements in the US dollar / ECU exchange rate used for valuation (dollar reserves being a large proportion of the total). Data available for May suggest a further

small decline in EUR-11 and EU15 reserves. Italy's reserves fell 6.5% on the month, or ECU 3.1 billion, to 44.8 billion, but were nonetheless 18.8% above their year-earlier level. Other large annual increases in reserves were recorded by Belgium-Luxembourg (up 20.5% to ECU 17.9 billion), and Greece (up 23.3% to ECU 16.6 billion). By contrast, those of Finland fell 17.5% from a year earlier, but rose between April and May by 5.4% (ECU 0.4 billion), to 7.4 billion.

Note: The definition of foreign official reserves used here excludes gold.

Industrial production

EU15 industrial production rises 0.7%

EU15 industrial production trend¹ was up 0.7% between the first and the second quarters this year. EUR-11² rose by 0.8% on this measure.

Previous figures - for the three months up to end-May compared to the three months before - were +0.9% for EU15 and +1.0% for EUR-11.

Biggest the second quarter rise was in

Denmark (2.1%). Belgium (1.2%), Spain (1.1%), Finland (1.0%) and France (0.9%) followed. Germany and the Netherlands (both 0.7%) and Austria (0.6%) also saw an upward trend. UK registered no growth.

The USA recorded +0.6%, slightly less than EU15 or EUR-11. Japan's production was down by a hefty -2.9%.

Production trend¹ - % changes Q1-Q2 1998

Denmark	2,1	EU15	0,7
Belgium	1,2	Austria	0,6
Spain	1,1	UK	0,0
Finland	1,0	Italy	0,2
France	0,9	Luxembourg	-0,9
EUR-11	0,8	USA	0,6
Germany	0,7	Japan	-2,9
The Netherlands	0,7		

¹ Production volume of total industry - excluding construction - adjusted for seasonal and one-off fluctuations.

² Member States participating in EMU - Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

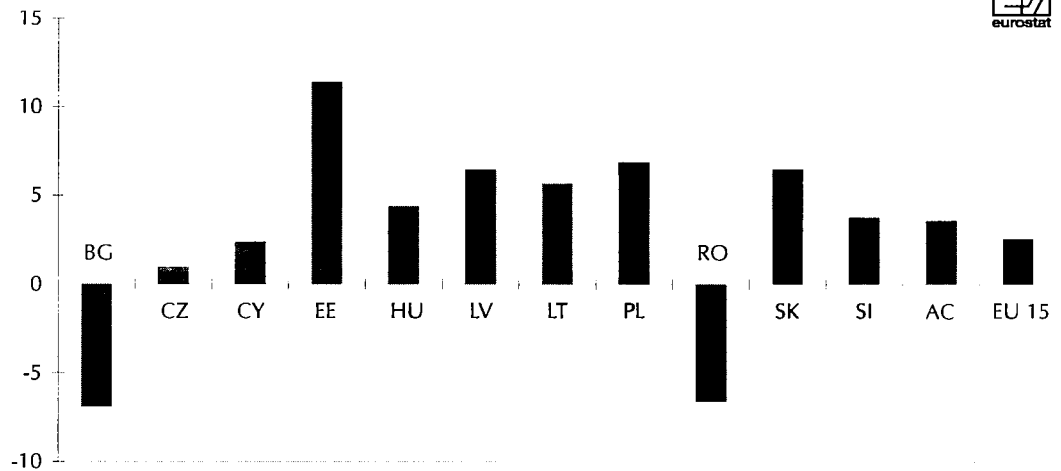
Dossier of the month

GDP of the applicant countries Annual growth exceeds that of the Union

The average annual growth in GDP in the applicant countries¹ was 3.6% in 1997, reflecting fairly marked economic growth which exceeded that of the European Union (+2.6%)

Only four countries were below the EU average: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria, the last of which recorded a drop in GDP for the second consecutive year. In contrast, in 1997 the seven other countries had higher growth rates than the average for the applicant countries.

Annual growth rates of GDP (%), 1997



Annual growth rates of GDP (%)

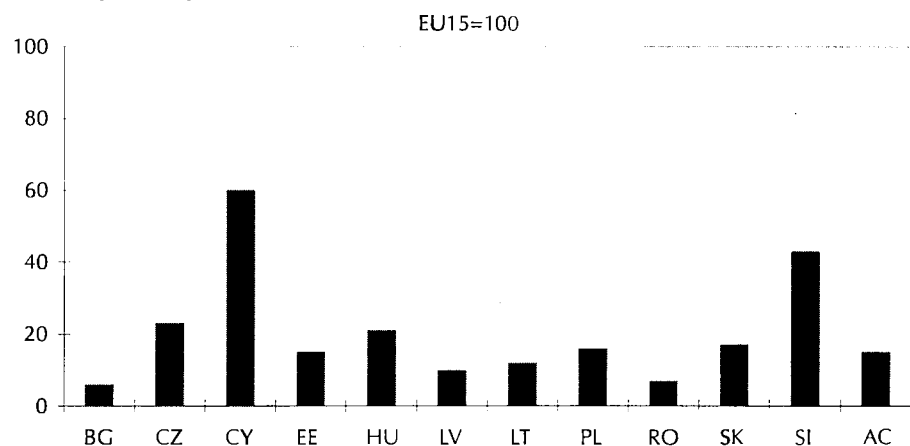
	BG	CZ	CY	EE	HU	LV	LT	PL	RO	SK	SI	AC	EU 15
1996	-10.1	3.9	2.0	4.0	1.3	3.3	4.7	6.1	3.9	6.6	3.1	4.1	1.7
1997	-6.9	1.0	2.4	11.4	4.4	6.5	5.7	6.9	-6.6	6.5	3.8	3.6	2.6

¹ Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Cyprus (CY), Estonia (EE), Hungary (HU), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Poland (PL), Romania (RO), Slovak Republic (SK), Republic of Slovenia (SI), Total for applicant countries (AC).

In 1997, the GDP of the applicant countries as a whole at current prices and exchange rates was ECU 303 billion, compared with ECU 7 128 billion for the Union, i.e. 4.3% of the GDP of the Union

Poland had a per capita GDP of ECU 3 100 but accounted for almost 40% of the total GDP of the applicant countries (1.6% of the GDP of the Union). Cyprus and Slovenia had the highest GDP with ECU 11 400 and 8 100 per capita respectively, although they accounted for only 7.8% of the total GDP of the applicant countries.

GDP per capita in ECU, 1997 - EU15 =100



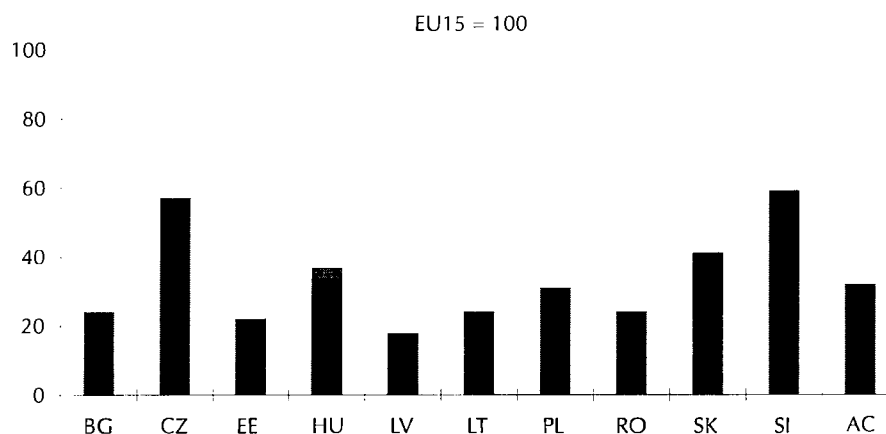
GDP of the applicant countries at current prices and exchange rates, 1997

	BG	CZ	CY	EE	HU	LV	LT	PL	RO	SK	SI	AC
Billion ECU	9	45.9	7.5	4.2	39.6	4.9	8.4	119.7	30.6	17.2	16.1	303
Per capita - in ECU	1 100	4 500	11 400	2 800	3 900	2 000	2 300	3 100	1 400	3 200	8 100	2 900
Per capita - EU15=100	6	23	60	15	21	10	12	16	7	17	43	15

The GDP in real terms of the applicant countries expressed in PPS2 was 792 billion in 1997, about 11.1% of the total GDP of the Union. Per capita GDP in real terms was 7 500 PPS compared with 19 000 PPS for the Union, i.e. 40% of the Community average

In 1997, Slovenia had the highest per capita GDP, which at 13 000 PPS was similar to that of Greece, which had the lowest in the EU. Bulgaria's per capita GDP of 4 400 PPS was the lowest among the applicant countries.

GDP per capita in PPS⁽²⁾, 1997



GDP of the applicant countries at current prices and PPS⁽²⁾, 1997

	BG	CZ	EE	HU	LV	LT	PL	RO	SK	SI	AC	EU15
Billion PPS	36.7	123.8	10.3	90.3	12.7	21.3	291.2	131.8	48.2	25.8	792	7 128.2
Per capita, in PPS	4 400	12 000	7 000	8 900	5 100	5 800	7 500	5 800	8 900	13 000	7 500	19 000
Per capita - EU15=100	24	57	22	37	18	24	31	24	41	59	32	100

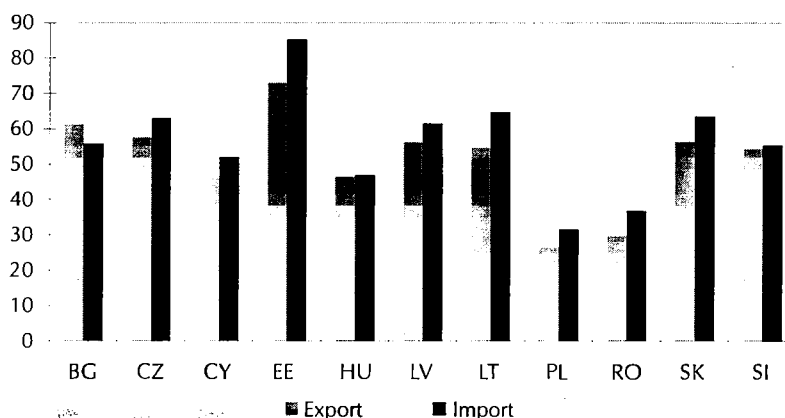


⁽²⁾ For international comparisons, Eurostat prefers to express the GDP of each country in purchasing power standards (PPS), which eliminates the effect of price differences between countries.

In 1997, the share of the final consumption of households in the GDP of the applicant countries ranged from 50% in Slovakia to 75.4% in Romania. These figures are very similar to those for the EU, which ranged from 52.1% (Ireland) to 72.4% (Greece)

With regard to gross fixed capital formation as a percentage of GDP, Bulgaria's share was very small (11.3%), while that of Slovakia was almost 40%, a very high figure compared with the 25.6% recorded by Portugal, the Member State with the highest share of GFCF. As for external trade, all the countries except Bulgaria had a negative trade balance.

GDP aggregates (%) - External trade, 1997



Main GDP aggregates (%) - 1997

	BG	CZ	CY	EE	HU	LV	LT	PL	RO	SK	SI ⁽²⁾
Final consumption of households	71.8	51.4	62.2	57.3	51.2	65.2	67.1	65.5	75.4	50.0	57.3
GFCF	11.3	30.7	18.2	26.5	22.3	18.7	22	20.8	19.2	38.6	22.5
Exports	61.3	57.6	46.1	72.9	46.4	56.2	54.6	26.4	29.7	56.4	54.3
Imports	55.7	63	51.9	85.2	46.9	61.4	64.8	31.5	36.7	63.5	55.2



Source: Eurostat Statistics in focus: Economy and finances No28/98.

One in four EU babies born outside marriage

Nearly a quarter of all EU babies are now born outside marriage. In 1980 it was less than 10%.

A report¹ - out jointly from Eurostat, Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg, and the Council of Europe - says the number of babies with unmarried parents is increasing "virtually everywhere" throughout the EU and the rest of Europe, "reflecting the growing popularity of cohabitation".

It says that, according to latest figures, two out of three live births in Iceland

and about one in two in Denmark, Estonia, Norway and Sweden are outside marriage. The proportion tops 30% in Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Latvia, Slovenia and UK.

But low rates, albeit rising, are still evident in southern Europe. Greece has 3.3% (1.5% in 1980), Malta 7.4% (1.1% in 1980) and Italy 8.3% (4.3% in 1980). Switzerland is also low with 8.0%, although it was only 4.7% in 1980. Cyprus has the lowest rate at 1.4%, but still more than double its 1980 figure.

Marriage in decline

Europe-wide, marriage is in decline. The crude marriage rate in 1980 was 6.3 per 1 000 people; by last year it was down to 5.0. Denmark bucks the EU trend: up from 5.2 in 1980 to 6.5 in 1997.

Except for Andorra (2.2) and Armenia

(3.3), Sweden has the lowest figure (3.6) of the 46 survey countries.

The report says the marriage rate "fell dramatically" from 1980-97 in central and eastern Europe - by about half or more in Armenia, Latvia, Estonia and Bulgaria.

Significant fall in deaths of babies

One of the most significant demographic changes, says Eurostat, has been the fall in infant mortality (deaths of babies under 1). The rate has halved or more in many countries in the last 20 years.

For example, there were 14 deaths per 1 000 live births in Austria in 1980 but just 5 last year. Corresponding figures were 15 and 6 in Greece, 14 and 6 in Italy, 11 and 4 in Luxembourg and a remarkable

24 down to 7 (1996) in Portugal. Lowest 1997 figure was in Sweden (3.6).

The rate has also plummeted, albeit from higher levels, in some central and eastern European countries. For example, from 54 in Macedonia in 1980 to 16 last year and from 33 to 13 in former-Yugoslavia. Highest rate in the survey countries is in Turkey (42), next Romania (22). Beyond Europe, it tops 65 in India.

We're not replacing ourselves

The level of fertility needed to replace the population is an estimated 2.1 children per woman. In the EU last year it was only 1.44.

The EU's highest rate is in Ireland, up to 1.92 last year from 1.88 the year before. Lowest is Spain's 1.15. Germany showed a slight upturn last

year - from 1.32 in 1996 to 1.36.

Eurostat says that in 1980, 18 of the 46 European countries covered by today's survey had rates of 2.1 or above.

Highest was Turkey's 4.36.

The USA was almost replacing itself at 2.06.

Ups and downs of divorce

The report says that, in general, divorce is up substantially in western Europe but down in eastern Europe. Just one example of the latter: in Latvia the divorce rate has more than halved since 1980.

In Estonia almost as many people divorce as marry.

Within the EU, the UK has the highest crude divorce rate: 2.9 per 1 000 people against a 1.8 EU average.

Girls will live to 2080

Girls born now can expect on average to live to over 80 - to around the year 2080 - in many countries, including Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The latter has the highest female life-

expectancy figure in the survey area - just over 82.

The corresponding average for baby boys in western, northern and southern Europe is around five to seven years younger. Highest is in Sweden, Iceland and Switzerland at between 76 and 77.

And some key population points...

The 46 European countries covered by today's report had a total population this year of some 810 million - about 14% of the world total. This is two-thirds the size of the Chinese population, about 15% less than India and some three times the US figure. Just under half of Europe's population lives in the EU.

Seven European countries have over 50 million people: the Russian Federation (147 m), Germany (82 m),

Turkey (64 m), UK (59 m), France (58 m), Italy (58 m) and the Ukraine (50 m).

The EU population on 1 January this year was an estimated 374 565.7 million.

EU population growth last year was less than in 1996: 850 000 against over a million. The natural rise was similar but there were 222 000 fewer immigrants - down to 520 000.

All the people in the world

	Share of world population, 1998 (Total: 5 886.9 million)	Contribution to world population increase, 1997 (Total increase: 79.7 million)
EU15	6.4%	1.1%
Other Council of Europe countries	7.4%	0.0%
China	20.9%	13.7%
India	16.6%	21.2%
USA, Japan and other more developed countries	7.6%	4.0%
Other less developed countries	41.2%	59.9%

(¹) Eurostat Statistics in focus, Population and social conditions, No 9/98, First results of the demographic data collection for 1997 in Europe.

Source: Eurostat News releases No60/98.

76% of fuel used on EU roads is "green"

The EU aim is to eliminate leaded petrol by the year 2000.

EU-wide, the 'green' share (share of unleaded petrol) is now around 76%⁽¹⁾. Leaded petrol has completely disappeared in Austria, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden. It has almost disappeared in Germany

and coming close in Belgium (81%), Ireland (84%) and Luxembourg (90%).

However, other countries still have some way to go: UK (77%), France (64%), Italy (54%), Portugal (51%), Greece (46%) and Spain (46%). Until 1985 it was almost all leaded.

150 kg of fuel per person

Nevertheless, each EU inhabitant still uses over 150 kg of road transport fuel a quarter.

Eurostat says deliveries of major road transport fuels per person this year are expected to be about 7% up on 1990. There has been growth in all Member States except Germany and Finland, which have expected falls on 1990 of 2% and 5% respectively. Greece is

anticipated to be 53% up, Ireland 36% and Portugal 35%.

Excepting the special case of Luxembourg⁽²⁾, the highest deliveries per person are in Denmark, with a Q2 1998 estimate of 196 kg. Fuel prices are low here relative to other products. Lowest deliveries per person are in Portugal (108 kg), which has high fuel prices relative to other products.

Estimated deliveries of major road transport fuels - kg per person

	EU15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L ⁽²⁾	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Q2 98	156	177	196	165	139	137	169	150	143	764	157	176	108	175	182	162
% change 90/98	7	12	33	-2	53	26	5	36	8	36	27	14	35	-5	3	6

Fuel prices highs and lows

The final indicator highlights EU fuel prices. At the end of last year unleaded petrol was on average 7% cheaper than leaded, where the latter was still available. Derv was a further 28% cheaper.

In Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Portugal and Finland the price advantage of Derv was at least 40%. But in the UK 'green' petrol had a 1% price advantage over Derv.

In terms of PPS - the artificial currency used to smooth price differences among Member States - Portugal had the EU's highest petrol prices and a high Derv price and the lowest fuel consumption per person. On the other hand, Luxembourg and Denmark, with the lowest PPS prices, had the highest per capita consumption.

In Portugal 1000 litres of super unleaded cost 1210 PPS compared to only 625 in Luxembourg.

⁽¹⁾ Percentages quoted are second-quarter 1998 estimates.

⁽²⁾ A special case due its small size and low fuel prices, which encourage foreign customers to drive in and fill up.

Source: Eurostat Memo No 58/98.

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Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg:

Single copy: ECU 11 # Subscription: ECU 102



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CA-DC-98-010-EN-C